

Notes on November 21, 2019, Community Conversation in Cora Kelly Elementary School, Arlandria

SPANISH SPEAKING GROUP 1

1. We need lower rent
2. More shelters for the homeless
3. More light in the streets and neighborhoods
4. More street maintenance, lots of trash
5. Less vandalism
6. More and better management in apartment buildings
7. Need a gym, places to exercise
8. We need public bathrooms in public areas
9. We need clean streets from snow, particularly towards bus stops.
10. Upgraded laundromat services
11. More parking for cars
12. The laundry rooms in the apartment complexes need to be upgraded
13. We need speed bumps on Mount Vernon Ave, Executive, and Four Mile Road. As well as other roads with high pedestrian volumes as cars speed
14. Upgrade the sewage drainage, Stormwater management. It gets flooded on Mount Vernon and Executive every time it rains, cars/people can't get through that intersection.
15. More activities in community centers, more recreational centers
16. More parks with playgrounds and things to do for people of all ages
17. Better covered bus stops. All the bus tops in Chirilagua have people using them, yet not all have a shelter. Shelters should have sitting and a proper roof to cover from snow, rain and sun.
18. Need more playgrounds
19. We need a water park, ie a fountain in a plaza
20. We need a skate park
21. We need to increase the minimum wage as it has happened in DC and Maryland.
22. We need more things for teens to entertain
23. Cleaner roads
24. School busses are very important to keep them safe
25. More public pools in the summer
26. More fun days and affordable summer camp opportunities for kids during school breaks and after school.
27. We need a place to grow food and raise chickens
28. Safer street for pedestrians

SPANISH SPEAKING GROUP 2

1. The rent is going up
2. There too few housing options at low cost
3. We must increase the minimum wage
4. We need more street lighting. It's too dark when we come from work and walk from bus stop to our buildings

5. We need bus shelters
6. Buildings need to be better kept.
7. There are mice and bedbugs
8. Streets need to be repaired, potholes
9. We need more crossings and street lights for pedestrians. We need a safer pedestrian environment as many of us walk and take the bus to work.
10. We need playgrounds and fields to have lights. It gets dark very early during the summer.
11. The sidewalks are in pretty bad shape; it's almost impossible to use them with a stroller or a wheelchair.
12. We need more police officers, and have activities with them so they know us.
13. The Chirilagua community has lots of open spaces that are owned by the City/Government, they should be building low income housing there.
14. More police in the schools
15. School good is bad, it's usually cold and old. Sometimes even expired.
16. We need more after affordable school activities
17. We need more affordable housing assistance
18. We need more experienced school teachers
19. Homeowners get tax breaks, rents should also have tax breaks.
20. Amazon needs to invest in new housing of different types to relocate people who already live in Alexandria and welcome new residents, and repair the old buildings that can be occupied by current and new residents.
21. The parking lot areas need to have street light
22. We need a worker center to train people for jobs like electricians, plumbers, carpenters
23. We need more places to leave bicycles with a lock

SPANISH SPEAKING GROUP 3

1. On Edison Street, the stormwater management needs urgent improvement. When it rains, the water gets into basements.
2. There are electrical problems inside building complexes.
3. We need more playgrounds for children
4. We need more protection for people when they wait for the bus. People get wet when it rains, and it's also bad when it snows and it is so hot. There are a lot of people in all bus stops that need to be protected. The city wants to get more people on buses in the future, but they don't take care of the people who have been taking the bus for years.
5. We need more affordable housing units that's less than 30K per year.
6. We need more street lights on places like Mount Vernon and West Reed Ave.
7. We need more police officers, increase safety
8. We need a local farm
9. When we have snow, the City doesn't clean up the side walks for people to walk t bus stops. It's very dangerous. Again, they want more people to use the bus, but don't take care of people who are currently using the bus.

10. The apartment complexes need to be better maintained, cleaner. There are mice and roaches. They are very expensive, keep increasing the rent, yet they are not well maintained.
11. The athletic field by 24 Express should be public, not private.
12. My kids don't ride the bike as often because it's not safe on the streets.
13. We need a pharmacy like CVS
14. The rent keeps going up, we have been living here for decades now. The City needs to create a fund to help people stay.
15. We need more safe night entertainment so we don't have to go to DC or Arlington.
16. We need another church
17. We need a boulevard by Mount Vernon, with trees, playgrounds and a water fountain for the kids in a rectangular plaza. It can have a bike line and bus stops that have shelters.
18. We need to protect the stores we have, and create more stores that offer things we need like pharmacy, affordable child care centers, clinics, homeless shelters.
19. We need more activities targeting teenagers and young adults like a skate park
20. More local job opportunities for teenagers

ENGLISH SPEAKING GROUP 4

LIKE

- Existing green space
- Diversity
- Location: proximity to transit
- Socio-economic diversity
- Walkability of Mount Vernon
- Farmers market
- Human scale
- "Feels like you're at home"
- Places to hang out
- Four mile run; wetland preservation
- Wide variety of residents
- "A place where people of all incomes can live"
- Safety
- Small business

IMPORTANT

- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Community engagement
- Keep character of neighborhood
- More, neighborhood-scale development with restaurants and cafés Arlandria
- Don't allow high-rise development
- Preserve green space
- Need: left turn off of Mount Vernon onto Glebe
- Don't duplicate type of development seen on Route 1
- A concern: cut through traffic; increase in congestion
- Preserve green space and playgrounds
- A concern: increase in foot traffic has led to increase in littering = need more education

- Not enough housing in Chirilagua: can a little more density help increase housing opportunity?
- Maintain and enhance safe and pleasant bike and pedestrian infrastructure = several dangerous intersections

PLAN TOGETHER VS SEPARATELY

- Be mindful of shared values BUT also of distinctly different needs of two communities

DRAFT